

Meet the WHS Seniors of the Week



Wildcats ready for Reed-Custer



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WILMINGTON, IL | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2023 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER (815) 476-7966

Wilmington School District seeking “essential” information

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The Wilmington School District is looking for information, but just the essentials.

In January, the district sent a letter home to parents letting them know that students and staff would be taking part in this year's 5Essentials Survey.

The 5Essentials Survey identifies five indicators that lead to improved outcomes for all students, including improved attendance and larger test score gains.

Those five indicators are effective leaders, collaborative teachers, involved families, supportive envi-

ronments, and ambitious instruction.

According to the Illinois State Board of Education, research derived from the 5Essentials survey has proven that schools strong on at least three of the 5Essentials are 10 times more likely to improve student outcomes.

The information collected through the survey is rigorously reviewed and analyzed to generate a 5Essentials Report for each school. That report includes a breakdown of teacher and student responses and provides a comprehensive picture of the school environment based on those five areas, which the ISBE notes are critical for school improvement in a meaningful context.

This survey generates valuable data that districts can use to guide their ongoing efforts to improve schools and to educational offerings.

Wilmington School District 209-U Assistant Superintendent Kevin Feeney said the survey is an improvement tool that allows 209-U, as well as districts across the state, to share data as a means to inform parents and community members about the learning environment within the district's schools.

5Essentials Survey is taken by all preK through 12th grade teachers, and all fourth grade through 12th grade students. The anonymous survey usually takes no more than 30 minutes to complete.

The survey asks questions about students' experiences, attitudes, and activities in school.

For educators, the survey asks questions about a variety of topics, including instruction, professional development, and the school as a workplace.

"We can use the results of the survey to improve our school environment for faculty and students," Feeney said. "The student survey gives us information about how safe our students feel at school. We learn about their thoughts and opinions on the school curriculum. They answer questions about homework, classroom assessments, and if they look forward to going to school. We can

use all of this information to improve the overall educational experience for students."

Feeney noted that the teacher portion of the survey seeks input on a variety of topics, including instruction, professional development, and the school as a workplace.

"We can take the information from the teacher survey to improve the school climate and create a work environment that is safe, collaborative, and inclusive," Feeney said.

Feeney said the district benefits simply by giving everyone a voice.

"As a school district, we want to know the thoughts and opinions of all

SEE SURVEY, PAGE 2

Truck catches fire at gas station



WFPD photo

A driver who pulled into the Shell Gas Station across from the Launching Pad last week got more than just a fill-up at the pump. At just after 10:30 p.m. on Jan. 26, the Wilmington Fire Protection District responded to a call from the station at 809 E. Baltimore St. or a reported vehicle fire at the gas pump. According to a press release, WFPD personnel found a fully involved pickup truck with exposure to the gas pump and awning structure overhead when they arrived at the scene. The fire was extinguished quickly. The Wilmington Police Department assisted with traffic control until Baltimore Street was able to be reopened, and the Wilmington public works department was on hand to apply salt to the roadway due to water on the pavement. There were no injuries in the incident. The station was able to reopen the next day.

Local officials talk road conditions

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

Anyone who travels Coal City Road through Will County knows it can be a bumpy drive.

In fact, the condition of the roadway is often discussed among local officials and it was a topic of discussion at a recent meeting hosted by the Will County Executive.

The villages of Coal City and Diamond were included in the meeting that focused on regional transportation. Representatives from Braidwood, Wilmington, Minooka, Channahon and Grundy County were also there to talk about specific issues, but that one section of road was at the top of the list.

"The lead issue and the whole group agrees, when you look at transportation and what has to get pushed forward is what is the plan for Coal City Road east of Route

113 to Route 53. What is happening with that road and will it ever be good some day," said Matt Fritz, Coal City's village administrator.

The intersection of Coal City Road and Route 129 recently underwent an improvements, but the roadway itself continues to be in a state of disrepair.

Fritz, who attended the meeting, said another area discussed was the section of Route 53 heading north out of Wilmington to Peotone Road.

"There were all kinds of other issues for that area of Will County, but those are paramount to everything else we discussed as a group," Fritz said.

According to the administrator these two roadways have been topics of discussion for a couple of years, but it appears it might be a while before any signs of improvement are seen.

Grundy Bank donates \$10,000 for WHS scoreboards

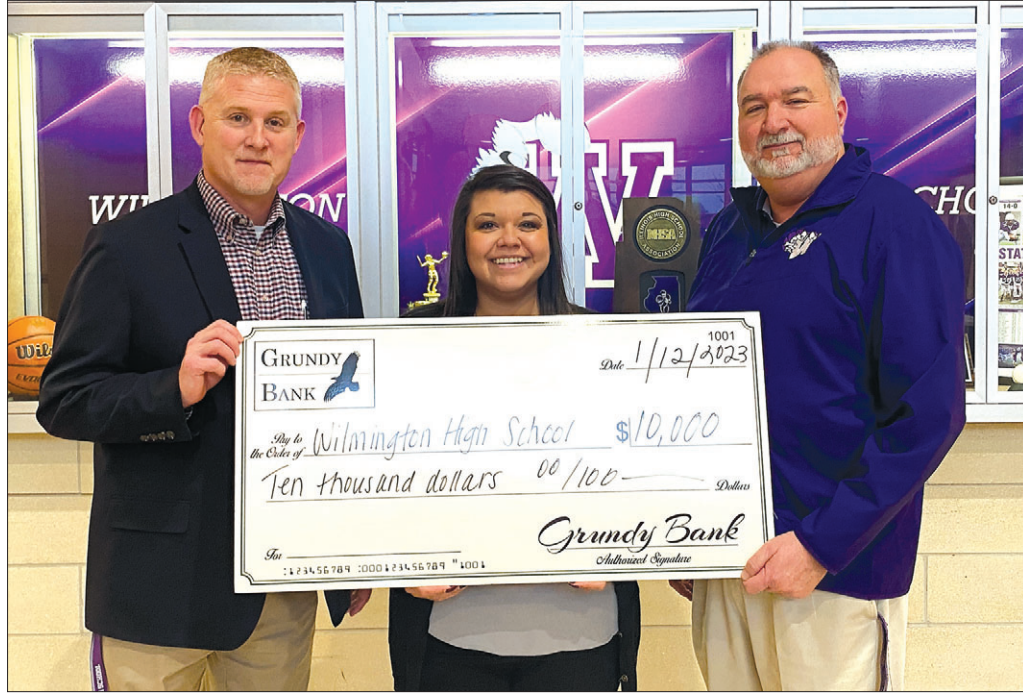
The gymnasium scoreboards at Wilmington High School, home of the Wilmington Wildcats, are no longer functioning reliably.

The current gymnasium scoreboards have been operating since 2007 and are in need of replacement, Principal Scott Maupin explained.

Wilmington High School approached Grundy Bank and asked if there would be interest in sponsoring or donating towards the purchase of new scoreboards. Grundy Bank gave the news that they would help fund two new scoreboards for the inside gymnasium - in the form of a \$10,000 check.

"Wilmington High School is extremely grateful to continue a partnership with our local bank and thankful for the donation towards the new indoor scoreboards," Maupin said.

SEE GRUNDY, PAGE 2



Courtesy photo

CHRISTINE MENDEZ, (center) marketing & sales director for Grundy Bank, presents a \$10,000 check to Wilmington High School principal Scott Maupin (left) and athletic director Brian Goff for the purchase of two new scoreboards for the WHS gym.

Tentative groundbreaking set for D'Orazio Ford, Arnie Bauer Chevrolet

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

BRAIDWOOD — City leaders in Braidwood say things are starting to move at the new car dealerships, set to be built along EZ Street on the city's northwest side.

On Jan. 24, city administrator Tony Altiery gave an update on the planned construction of the new D'Orazio Ford and Arnie Bauer Chevrolet dealerships in the city.

"We have a few of the businesses in town that are starting to get ready [for] once the engineering is finalized," Altiery said. "All the engineering should be done by the end of February or beginning of March."

City engineer Dave Weber also reported to the council that the plans are moving ahead, with a tenta-

tive date of June 15 for groundbreaking.

"We've received the second submittal, which we've reviewed their plans one time, gave them comments... That seems to be moving forward," Weber said.

In June of 2022, the council approved a redevelopment agreement with Bauer & D'Orazio, LLC, to move D'Orazio Ford and Arnie Bauer Chevrolet from Wilmington and into the subdivision at EZ Street and Division Street in Braidwood, which is located inside the city's Tax Increment Financing (TIF) III district.

The agreement includes a total of 64 acres of land that

SEE FORD, PAGE 2



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Survey

students so we can create an environment where every student can reach their full potential," he said. "We are always trying to improve the educational experience for our students. This survey provides us with valuable information to help us become a better school district for all of our students to learn and grow."

The ISBE notes that the 5Essentials Survey, combined with test scores, can provide a

more comprehensive look at teaching and learning in any given school.

State law mandates that the ISBE implement a learning conditions survey annually that can help create that full picture.

"While this survey may help inform state policy and improvement initiatives, it is primarily intended to help local administrators, such as teachers, principals, and superintendents, identify strengths and weaknesses at the district and school level and better target resources and interventions," the ISBE notes on its website.

Last year, Wilmington High School had 97% student participation and 94 teacher participation in the survey. At the middle school, participation for students was 91%, which teachers participated at a rate of 87%.

WMS last year scored "very strong" in ambitious instruction, and "strong" in effective leaders. WHS scored "strong" in collaborative teachers and involved families. Neither school had any "weak" scores in the five categories.

The survey will be administered through March 31. Parents can read the sur-

vey questions on the Illinois 5Essentials website, <https://5-essentials.org/>

A permission slip for parents who wish to opt their students out of participating in the survey was sent to families last month. Anyone with questions regarding the survey can contact their building principal.

The Illinois 5Essentials Survey is administered online by Chicago Impact at the University of Chicago on behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education.

Braidwood gets set for Memorial Day 5K

BY MARNEY SIMON EDITOR

The city of Braidwood will be the host site for an inaugural Memorial Day 5K, presented by Constellation Energy.

And city leaders have approved a request to have that course certified, leaving the door open for additional events along the same route.

On Jan. 24, race organizer Ryan Dodge approached the members of the Braidwood City Council regarding the plans for the event, set to take place on May 27 in the neighborhood around Old Smokey City Park.

Dodge requested that the city participate with a \$500 expenditure to certify the course through It's Race Time, a chip timing company that electronically records participants throughout the race.

Dodge was joined in his request by ESDA Coordinator Josh Bolatto.

ESDA has been working with the organizers to coordinate all of the event and public safety logistics along with Braidwood Police Department and the Braidwood Fire

"I'M A VETERAN MYSELF, SO ANYTHING I CAN DO... I'LL DO IT. I SERVED EIGHT YEARS IN THE NAVY SO DEFINITELY ANYTHING THAT WE CAN DO FOR OUR VETERANS AND WHAT WE CAN DO TO ENSURE THAT THEY [GET] ON HONOR FLIGHT. IT'S AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE, WHAT THEY DO."

RYAN DODGE
EVENT ORGANIZER

Department.

"We've been working with Ryan and we started to brainstorm on the public safety aspect of it. The route that was chosen is all residential, therefore it stays off all the state routes and that is much easier to manage," Bolatto said. "We're going to provide a lot of manpower and services for the road closures, traffic control, event control, that kind of thing. We plan on reaching out to the greater Will County mutual aid association that we belong to for any other manpower or aid in the county, if they can send aid to help with that."

Regarding the certification, Bolatto noted that participants prefer certified routes, which can provide them with accurate timing, records, and the ability to work toward or achieve a personal record within any race.

A certified course is also more likely to attract competitive runners in addition to

those who want to come out just to support the cause.

And, the certification is good for the next 10 years. That means the route will be able to be used at other events or by other organizations for fundraising runs or fun runs, which means more people visiting the city.

"As long as they use that same certified route, then they can use the certification," Bolatto said.

Dodge said all proceeds from the race will benefit Honor Flight Chicago.

"Right now, Constellation will be the sponsor, but we'll also be looking at the local community and local businesses to come together as one to support this veterans cause prior to the race," Dodge said, adding that organizers have reached out to other local veterans groups in an effort to get local veterans and the community together for the race.

Registration for the race is \$30. Capacity is planned for 2,500 runners, which would equal about \$75,000 in donations for Honor Flight Chicago

"I'm a veteran myself, so

anything I can do... I'll do it," Dodge said. "I served eight years in the Navy so definitely anything that we can do for our veterans and what we can do to ensure that they [get] on Honor Flight. It's an incredible experience, what they do."

"Honor Flight Chicago is an amazing organization, we're trying to get all the surrounding communities, Will, Grundy County, Kankakee County to come in and participate in this because that organization serves all of this area. You see people who go on these trips, they say it's absolutely amazing," Bolatto added.

City officials noted that the event has other benefits outside of supporting veterans.

"It's 2,500 people maximum [to participate], so if they were to bring one person or two people with them, we could be looking at anywhere from 5,000 to 8,000 people bringing their business to Braidwood. I think that is another great benefit for it," city administrator Tony Altieri said.

The council unanimously approved a motion to pay to certify the route.

Dodge and Bolatto noted that there will be more planning sessions, and additional information will be brought back to the City Council once more details are worked out.

The Braidwood Memorial 5K Presented by Constellation Energy takes place on Saturday, May 27. On-site registration begins at 6 a.m., and the run begins at 9 a.m.

Participants can register in advance, at www.runsignup.com/Race/IL/Braidwood/MemorialRun.

Ford

will be purchased by the City of Braidwood for \$1.8 million, and conveyed to Bauer & D'Orazio, LLC for construction of a new Ford dealership and a new Chevrolet dealership. The D'Orazio Ford dealership is expected to be built on 11.7 acres, while the Arnie Bauer Chevrolet dealership will take up 8 acres. The new dealerships will sit adjacent to CampingWorld and Warren's Collision Center.

The deal includes TIF eligible incentives up to \$4.765 million, including:

- Real Estate Tax Increment — the city will reimburse the developers 100% of the annual net real estate tax increment generated by the dealerships, until the developer has received the TIF eligible project costs. For other development within the 64 acres, the city will reimburse 50% of net real estate tax increment generated by retail or commercial development.
- Municipal Sales Tax — The city will reimburse the developer 55% of municipal sales tax revenues generated by the dealerships in calendar years 2025 through 2034.
- Construction projects — Those projects to be constructed by the developer that are eligible for TIF reimbursement include site preparation, grading, engineering, architectural services, legal services, planning, infrastructure improvements, utilities extensions, and job training.

In addition, the city will waive all permit fees and utility tap on fees for the two dealerships. The city will also construct a left turn lane onto north Division Street, which is currently a right in/right out only.

As far as the city's \$1.8 million property purchase, funds will come from the issuance of debt certificates.

Per the agreement, both dealerships must be completed on or before Dec. 24, 2024.

Attorney Meents files McGee estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DAVID EARL MCGEE, Deceased; No. 2022PR793

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of David Earl McGee, Letters of Office as Independent Administrator were issued on January 27, 2023, to Jason Scot McGee, whose address is 4603 W. Dane Court, New Palestine, Indiana 46163; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 West Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before August 9, 2023, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov> /service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalsaid.org.

Jason Scot McGee
Independent Administrator of the Estate of David Earl McGee, Deceased

Frank J. Meents
25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815) 534-9515
Facsimile: (815) 534-9516
Attorney Code: 06298859
E-mail: frank@meentslaw.com

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Feb. 1, 8, and 15, 2023.

Attorney Wysocki files Kristofer estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LEONA M. KRISTOFER, Deceased; No. 2022 PR 765

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the death of LEONA M. KRISTOFER. Letters of Office were issued to George L. Kristofer whose address is 323 Parkshore Drive, Shorewood, IL 60404 as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is Marilyn L. Wysocki, June, Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C., 1861 Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 25th day of July, 2023, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Marilyn L. Wysocki
For the Estate of Leona M. Kristofer, Deceased

BY: Marilyn L. Wysocki
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Atty No.: 06275404

Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Jan. 25, Feb. 1 and 8, 2023.

Division Street crossing repairs to begin Thursday

Closure of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad crossing in Coal City has been pushed back a few days.

The work scheduled to begin on Tuesday will now start on Thursday, Feb. 2.

The Illinois Department of Transportation reports Route 113 [Division Street] will be closed for approximately two days in order to complete track repairs.

The posted detour remains the same and will direct east-bound motorists around the work area using North Broadway to North Street and east to First Avenue where they will continue south back to Route 113. Westbound traffic will use the same route just in the opposite order of travel First Avenue to North Street, west to Broadway and south to Route 113.

Motorists can expect delays and should allow extra time for trips through the area and be prepared for slow and stopped traffic. Motorists should avoid the work area, if possible, and use an alternate route.

Drivers are urged to pay close attention to changing conditions and signs in the work zone, obey posted speed limits and refrain from using mobile devices and be alert for workers and equipment.

Elwood Fire Protection District adopts ordinance re-establishing ambulance charges

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 01192023

AN ORDINANCE RE-ESTABLISHING AMBULANCE AND RELATED CHARGES OF THE ELWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Trustees of the Elwood Fire Protection District as follows:

Section 1. A fee will be charged for emergency medical services rendered by the Elwood Fire Protection District. All persons who are non-residents of the District who are provided with ambulance service by the District or any fire protection district or municipality which provides emergency medical services to the District pursuant to a contract or mutual aid agreement with the District will be charged as per **Appendix A**.

Beginning on January 1, 2023, and each successive January 1st thereafter, the fees set forth in Appendix A of this Ordinance shall be increased without any further action by the Board of Trustees by the then-existing ambulance billing rate(s) pursuant to any subsequent Cost Report(s) submitted by the District under the GEMT Program or otherwise. In the event the calculated fee for the upcoming year is less than the current fee being assessed, the current fee shall be assessed for the following calendar year. The Fire Chief is directed and authorized to update **Appendix A** with any subsequent changes to the District's approved ambulance billing rate(s). All revenue from the charges assessed pursuant to the emergency response portions of this Ordinance shall be credited to the Corporate Fund of the District.

Section 2. The Chief of the District, or designee, is authorized to assess the foregoing charges and to take any and all reasonable steps in the collection of the same.

Section 3. The Chief of the District, or designee, is authorized to adopt administrative regulations to implement this Ordinance and is authorized to waive any and all of the fees due to a person, business, or other entity under this Ordinance. The Chief, or designee, may do so by policy or on an individual basis.

Section 4. The provisions of this Ordinance shall supersede any prior ordinances establishing charges which are inconsistent with this Ordinance.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect as of January 1, 2023.

Section 6. If any section, paragraph or provisions of this Ordinance shall be held invalid or unenforceable for any reason, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of the Elwood Fire Protection District on the 19th day of January, 2023, by a roll call vote as follows:

AYES:2
NAYS:0
ABSENT:1

APPENDIX A
NON-RESIDENTS FEES AND CHARGES

Basic Life Support	\$ 3,309.60
Advanced Life Support	\$ 3,309.60
Non-transport fee where treatment is administered	\$ 200.00
Mileage Charge	\$17.50 per mile

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023.

Tax Deed filed for 1775 Vista Dr.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAX DEED NO.: 2023TX000006
FILED:1/9/2023
TAKE NOTICE

County of Will
Date Premises Sold: December 9, 2020
Certificate No.: 19-03864
Sold for General Taxes of (Year): 2019
Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and Special Assessment Number: N/A
Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES

Property Located at: 1775 Vista Drive, Wilmington, IL 60481
Legal Description or Property Index No.: 08-24-01-100-007-0000

This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on July 5, 2023.

The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before July 5, 2023.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Will County in 100 W. Jefferson St., Joliet, IL 60432, Room 905, on July 18, 2023 at 9:00 AM.

You may be present at this hearing, but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time.

YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY

Redemption can be made at any time on or before July 5, 2023 by applying to the County Clerk of Will, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Joliet, Illinois.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK

302 North Chicago St.
Joliet, IL 60432
815-740-4615

Private Equity Group, LLC
Purchaser or Assignee
January 16, 2023
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Joshua Smok
Bruce Smok
Occupant
Lauren Staley Ferry, County Clerk of Winnebago County, Illinois
Claimants, Judgment Creditors, and Decree Creditors, if any of the above described as "Unknown Owners"
"Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots"
8139-929555

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Feb. 1, 8, and 15, 2023.

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Mileage Charge	\$17.50 per mile

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023.

Grundy

"Grundy Bank has been a long-standing supporter of District 209-U and we couldn't be more appreciative."

The scoreboard will be installed this summer and utilized for the fall volleyball season. These scoreboards are used for high school wrestling, volleyball and basketball.

"Grundy Bank believes that it's vital to support our local school district and ath-

letic department and hopes the two new scoreboards help enhance the experience on game days. This is truly a perfect example of community partnerships," said Kevin Olson, President and CEO of Grundy Bank.

Scoreboards will measure 8.5ft x 11ft and will feature "Compliments of Grundy Bank" on both.

Grundy Bank is a leading community bank based in Morris with a branch in Wilmington. Grundy Bank is proud to say they have served Grundy County and southern Will County for over 155 years.

Library to hold Craft Corner

The Wilmington Public Library will be hosting "Kat's Craft Corner" on the second Thursday of every month from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Kat will gladly teach interested patrons how to knit, or you can feel free to bring your own craft project to work on and enjoy some company.

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Subscription rates: \$43 Grundy & Will counties; \$50 other Illinois counties and \$57 out of state G.W.Communications, Inc publishes the weekly subscription newspapers named The Free Press Advocate, The Braidwood Journal, and The Coal City Courant.

Advertising and Business Offices:

- 111 South Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481 (815) 476-7966; Fax: (815) 476-7002
- 271 South Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 (815) 634-0315; Fax: (815) 476-7002

Deadline for The Free Press Advocate, Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courant Display Advertising: Friday, noon
News and Classified Advertising: Monday, noon

E-mail: News & News Photos: news@fpnusa.com
Ads & Artwork: graphics@fpnusa.com

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Marney Simon, editor

February 1923 headlines: Autos, roads, frog and a king

The above headline might make you think that I had gone slightly mad. But 100 years ago there were so many things going on, it's hard to put them together. You will see what I mean.



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

The first week a strange ad appeared in the Advocate. It said, "Who is the frog?" and "It's worth \$1,000 to a woman or girl."

When the automobile arrived on the scene it displaced a lot of jobs such as blacksmith. But created even more, such as car thief. During the second week we read, "Several hundred stolen automobiles have been recovered during the past year as a result of a new bulletin system established by Secretary of State Louis L. Emmerson under the terms of an act adopted by the last general assembly."

In the same edition there was an article about why women talk more than men as researched by a well-known psychologist. "A woman's vocabulary is smaller and more centralized than man's, but always on tap."

"Sheriffs and chiefs of police throughout the state forward to the Secretary of State the numbers and descriptions of all stolen automobiles in their communities. These are compiled once a week and forwarded to every sheriff and police department in Illinois. This aids greatly in the detection of stolen cars."

She can get at it very quickly, and does so frequently. Now, man's lingual abilities are scattered. He cannot always get at it in time to have a comeback ready for his wife."

"One of the difficulties impeding the success of this system Secretary Emmerson declares, is the failure of garages to comply with the law requiring them to register the

The last expert may not have been right, but another article quoting the President of Columbia University concerning the 18th amendment - prohibition - was right on the mark. "There is no likelihood that the 18th amendment ever can be enforced, no matter at

car and engine numbers of every automobile placed in the garage for storage or repairs. Only a very small percentage of garages are complying with this provision. "If each garage kept an accurate register of all the cars received it would be merely a matter detail for the police officer to check over the register with the numbers in the stolen car bulletin issued by the secretary of state and thus find stolen cars."

Each had their own idea of what a road should be. Hence you could drive down a beautiful graveled road one minute and find yourself in a mud pit the next.

By the 1920's folks realized that government co-operation was needed. In the third week of 1923 the County Board of Supervisors addressed petitions by the residents of Coal City and Wilmington asking for the construction of a hard road from Skinner's mine west to the Grundy line.


They voted yes. The road would link up to the newly built Chicago/St. Louis hard road, allowing people living west of Wilmington easy access to town.

The last week of the month saw the rollout of the new Ford automobile. It advertised all the newest innovations.

There was an electric starting and lighting system, no more cranking to start the engine, and demountable

WHO IS THE FROG?

Important



Because

It's a matter of \$1,000 for a Woman—or Girl

AN AD FOR The strange frog contest.

rims. Before that, when you bought the tire it came pre-mounted on the rim, now you can save money by buying only the tire and reusing the rim. Cost? Only \$595 (\$10,500).

The biggest news of the last week was not local, but

global. News came from Egypt that the mortuary chamber in the tomb of King Tutankhamen was opened. The news had just leaked out, the world still did not know about the treasures that were found within.

Wilmington HS seniors of the week

BY CHLOE PROFFITT
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

Each week the Free Press Advocate features members from the Wilmington High School class of 2023. Featured this week are Jaylee Mills and Kaylan Hughes-Hawkins who completed our questionnaire.



JAYLEE MILLS



KAYLAN HUGHES-HAWKINS

Jaylee Mills
What do you plan to pursue upon graduation? Major in business and accounting.
What is something most do not know about you? I hate the cold weather
What's an everyday activity you could win an Olympic medal at? Sleeping
Favorite thing on the school menu? Chicken nuggets and mac and cheese
What is one thing you refuse to eat? Barbecue on a bun
A sport or club that made an impact on you and why? Volleyball. It has taught me

leadership and dedication.
If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? Iceland
What class would you create? Nap time
Famous Person (dead or alive) you would like to meet? Juice Wrld, I relate to his songs and it would be nice to talk to him

Teacher shoutout? MR. MILLER
Advice you would give to underclassmen? Get enough sleep, do your homework and say out of drama!
Kaylan Hughes-Hawkins
What do you plan to pursue upon graduation? Nursing

What is something most do not know about you? I am secretly mixed
What's an every day activity you could win an Olympic medal at? Reading
Favorite thing on the school menu? Mac and cheese
What is one thing you refuse to eat? Zucchini
A sport or club that made an impact on you and why? Student Council because I was unjustly kicked out
If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? Your mom's house
What class would you create? Nap time
Famous Person (dead or alive) you would like to meet? Snoop Dogg, he has seen it all.
Teacher Shoutout? Shoutout to Morrison.
Advice you would give to underclassmen? Stop standing in the middle of the hallways!

Pedals for Progress bike winner



LILLY STEFFEN was recently presented with a new Trek bicycle and accessories from Wilmington Masonic Lodge #208 as part of its Pedals For Progress Award at Stevens Intermediate School. Presenting the award are Masonic members (from left, Marvin Dew, Matthew Lohmar, George Roesel and Lee Springer. Lilly made immense progress in her reading to earn the bike. All students are eligible to win the annual prize.

209U Lunch menu

Mon., Feb. 6: ravioli, alfredo, romaine salad, roll and butter, cutie orange and choice of milk
Tues., Feb. 7: cheeseburg-er on bun, french fries, mixed berries and choice of milk
Wed., Feb. 8: no lunches, early release
Thurs., Feb. 9: chicken

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Student debt halted

COAL CITY—In August, President Biden announced his plan to provide up to \$20,000 in student loan debt relief for borrowers earning less than \$125,000 per year. In less than four weeks that the application was available, 26 million people either applied for debt relief or had already have been deemed eligible for relief. Over 16 million applications were fully approved, including 679,000 out of 1,044,000 in Illinois. However, in November the feds stopped accepting applications as a result of lawsuits citing that the president can't start such a program without approval from congress. I'm not against helping college kids and their debt as our family experienced that burden. I am against Biden just doing this on a whim without taking the proper steps like other programs. No president, Democrat or Republican, should have that kind a power without involving the people we elect to represent us in Washington, D.C. I honestly think Biden did it knowing there would be lawsuits stopping it just to get these people to vote for him.

Karma for Mike

WILMINGTON—I have only one thing to say about Mike Pence and the documents: Karma. Mike is a Donald. Freddie

Suggesting a refresher

WILMINGTON—Hey Sharon, I'm being judgmental but I still consider the least of us the homeless. If you need a refresher read the Bible, Matthew 5, Sermon on the Mount. Jesus will explain it.

Before the mudslinging

BRAIDWOOD—With the local election coming up I hope everyone running for office would put their statement in our community newspaper telling us why we should vote for them. Tell us what positive plans you have for the community, not tell us why we shouldn't vote for their opponent. And get some backbone and not hide in the Soundoff with your attacking comments. It's time to be a standup candidate and tells us what you can bring to the table.

Quest for power

COAL CITY—Ted Cruz is planning on running for President again but he was born in Canada, not the U.S.A. So legally he cannot be President of the U.S.A. Maybe he just forgot that he is a naturalized citizen, not native born, unless he decided that being a constitutional lawyer he has the legal right to alter the laws for his own benefit. Sorry I forgot the people in Congress do as they please even if they commit illegal activities they never go to jail so they can continue to take more money from the taxpayers for their egotistical quest for power and prestige like our President.

Big pay raise

WILMINGTON—Illinois lost more than 100,000 residents last year, the 10th year in a row this state has seen a big population decline and a shift of the tax burden onto the rest of us who still live here. How did state lawmakers react to this? They gave themselves an 18% pay raise, making their base salary of \$85,000 the fourth-highest in the nation. If they serve on a committee they get thousands more, plus a daily stipend and mileage reimbursement. Not bad for a part-time job. These politicians had an opportunity to deliver permanent relief to struggling families but instead put themselves first. It's even more reason to leave Illinois.

Try to explain

WILMINGTON—I can explain it to you Dan, but I can't make you understand. When you look up the word Communism, look up the word obtuse.

Brings out the worst

WILMINGTON—The path the Wilmington Area Historical Society is on. Some nonprofits find themselves in financial trouble caused by events outside of their control or poor management practices and decisions. Bills and debts may accumulate and threaten to overwhelm the mission and operations of the organization. These lawsuits can be brought by donors, vendors, government regulators and others, and they are not limited to suing the nonprofit organization. As a member of the board, you could also be sued personally, and be responsible for the cost of hiring your own attorney to defend yourself. If an individual board member brings sharp and unproductive criticism to board discussions or demeans other board members or staff, he or she will be a detriment to your organization and its mission. A truly toxic board member will poison the group dynamics. Toxic behavior often brings out the worst. A board in a dysfunctional state shows a lack of confidentiality, conflicting agendas, lack of order, lack of respect for others, promotes a hostile environment, creates secret meetings, fosters personal agendas, has a lack of trust, and creates an environment of dominating members plus non-participating members.

Tarred in public

BRAIDWOOD—During the last Braidwood City Council meeting, our mayor publicly chastised Braidwood residents for exercising their freedoms to access public information. The city clerk read off a detailed list of recently received FOIA requests and the names of those who submitted them. Never since being appointed to the position has she ever done so in a public meeting. The city administrator

then proceeded to inform everyone just how much time, in his estimate, is going to be spent on fulfilling these requests. To put the icing on the cake, our Mayor then uses profanity and name calling while describing some of the residents who had submitted these FOIA requests. It's obvious that this was done during a public meeting as an attempt to defame these individuals and publicly shame them for what they are doing. In the famous words of Commissioner Smith "you got to be completely, totally blind to not see what's going on here." Hopefully someone will contact the Illinois Attorney General and file a complaint because no resident, regardless of who they are or their political aspirations, should ever be treated the way they were during a public meeting by elected officials. Hopefully these city officials get taken to the cleaners for their actions because they deserve to learn that there are consequences and repercussions for their inappropriate actions and behaviors.

Indoctrinating children

WILMINGTON—I agree with Dan Hill that the public schools should not be indoctrinating our children. So let's get rid of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Electric airplanes

SHADOW LAKES—The President, the Vice President, John Kerry and Al Gore, along with many millionaires and politicians, are trying to stop the use of fossil fuels in this country. Then they should ban airplane usage because airplanes contribute a great deal to the carbon footprint. They should not allow airplane usage until they can fly on electric airplanes or they can try flapping their arms like a bird since the hot air from their mouths is enough propulsion to push them across the earth millions of times. I would call each one of them a rocket scientist but that would be a complete insult to every scientist and every rocket.

Facing 11 years

COAL CITY—Attorney General Garland filed a federal complaint against a pro life man who was involved in a fight in front of a Planned Parenthood building because he was objecting to abortion. He now faces 11 years in prison even though the state dropped all legal charges and guess who started the fight. The Attorney General should resign because he is discriminatory and prejudicial towards any individual that objects to the facets ideology that the Democratic leaders have been pushing. He interprets the law for his own benefit. Where are the people that were arrested for the Jan. 6, protest? Political prisoners are tactics of Communism.

The wrong direction

SHADOW LAKES—China Joe lashes out at House GOP: "We're moving in the right direction...now we gotta protect those gains from the MAGA Republicans in the house." Direct quote from China Joe. Let us see what we have here, border crisis, runaway inflation, a possible recession, all his documents, looking at Hunter Biden. Money dumped into Ukraine. Now, what is the one thing that unites the people, makes them forget all this, and places them in the lead? You don't have to be a genius to figure it out. Always, Margot Lane.

Still laughing

BRAIDWOOD—It's been more than two hours since I read the Jan. 25, Sound-off entitled "Minutes of Meetings" and I am still laughing. Apparently someone previously complained about Braidwood not posting minutes of city council meetings. The Jan. 25 writer stated "I don't care how long or short the meetings are" and it is a waste of time and money "to keep track of how many minutes the meetings are." To the person who wrote that: The council "minutes" are not a length of time. The "minutes" are the official record of the proceedings, including what was discussed, who voted for what, etc. What is so very sad, and scary, is that the writer will probably vote in the next city election. With his or her lack of even a basic knowledge of local government, the writer must be a supporter of the present administra-



tion. Then again, maybe the submission was a joke, just like the present city council.

Except in Florida

WILMINGTON—Let's remember February is Black History Month. Except in Florida.

On the ballot

BRAIDWOOD—In the Jan. 25 Braidwood Journal Soundoff I am reading about petitions to be on the ballot. Now I am recalling that a week or so ago reading a non-elected position person or persons were going to be running unopposed. So now we won't have anything much different. Still the same "you scratch my back, I scratch yours." Thanks for the raise in pay. Also, the Forest Preserve photo winner affirms me it is a vulture, not what many people say turkey buzzard. Lastly, we are our own ISIS. I see we are eliminating permanently, the Courthouse in Joliet might be demolished.

Just the way it is

BRAIDWOOD—I think it was really awful that people were shamed by the mayor and city administrator at the recent Braidwood council meeting, just because they submitted FOIA requests. Citizens have a right to submit FOIAs. Unfortunately, the city administrator doesn't like to give out information to the public. He would rather have people come in to his office so that he can explain things and put his spin on it. He knows that most people are reluctant to do that. At a previous council meeting Mr. Altieri said that someone was asking why the new garbage contract wasn't put online. His answer was that he didn't think anyone would read it. That's not for him to decide. If even one person reads it, that's reason enough to post it. No matter what, someone should never be publicly shamed or called names by the mayor just because they wanted some public information. The administrator complained about how much time it takes to gather the information. That's just the way it is and no matter how much time it takes, citizens are entitled to the information. Maybe if the city of Braidwood would make all the information available on their website like other towns do, there would be no need to FOIA anything. I hope the next administration does better.

Social Security benefits

MORRIS—I read an article written in The Epoch Times written by a gentleman who retired from Social Security Administration after 32 years. He shared some facts and figures about Social Security. Eight million new claims for benefits last year, 2022; 59 percent for retirement benefits, 31 percent for survivor benefits and 10 percent were for disability benefits. Since 2005 baby boomers started retiring benefits spiked. There are more women getting Social Security benefits then men; 55 percent of all beneficiaries are women, 45 percent are

men. More women are in the working world and outlive men. Three million children who get Social Security benefits, the majority get survivor benefits from a deceased father or mother's Social Security record. Another million children are the minor children of someone getting Social Security disability benefits. Over \$1 trillion in the program revenues last year, 90 percent came from payroll taxes, six percent interest earned on trust fund holdings. Three percent came on taxation of Social Security benefits. Where did the money go? 99 percent to Social Security benefits, 0.6 percent for administrative costs, 0.4 percent rail road fund. It takes trustful excellent bookkeepers to deal with the insurance fund. No politician of either party will cut Social Security benefits. Just fear tactics being used.

Biden cover-up

MORRIS—How about the cover-up of President Biden's classified federal documents found in November yet public not informed until January. Documents hidden from the time he was a senator in various locations that he owns. Son Hunter had access to those documents. Has our government, press and media become so corrupt and biased that it's now impossible for American citizens to find out the truth? As we begin a new year Bill and Hillary Clinton's lost papers and on and on.

Just moronic

WILMINGTON—Is appointing Majorie Taylor Greene to the Intelligence Committee oxymoronic or just moronic.

Penny Lane

Took a drive

BRAIDWOOD—I was out driving with my wife. We went through Lorenzo Road and then we went through Diamond and Coal City and then Wilmington and we couldn't believe all the development going on there, all the prosperity and jobs coming into these towns. Tiny Diamond is unbelievable. And in Braidwood there is nothing going on. The streets are deserted. Some restaurants are gone, that place where they had the golf carts is gone and things just look desolate. We just don't understand.

That the world may know

DIAMOND—I believe that...1. The Bible is the inspired word of God. 2. God created us male and female in His image. 3. Every child in the womb has inherent value. 4. God has a plan and purpose for every life. 5. Marriage is the union of one man and one woman. 6. Religious liberty is an inherent human right. 7. Jesus is the son of God and my Lord and Savior. "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32.

Sharon

Commentary

Goodbye, poor economic prospects. Goodbye, high taxes. Goodbye, Illinois.

BY BRAD WEISENSTEIN
ILLINOIS POLICY INSTITUTE

By the time you finish reading this, another Illinoisan will have moved to another state.

Last year, 141,656 people quit Illinois. That's one every 3 minutes, 43 seconds. That's nearly like Naperville or Joliet vanishing in a year.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimated a total loss of 104,437 people between July 2021 and July 2022, somewhat blunted by births and moves from foreign countries. Yet the loss was still a new state record.

You would think a historic and accelerating population loss equivalent to losing as many people as live in one of the state's largest cities would be big news. You'd be wrong. There were relatively few mentions.

But most disturbing was the response from the guy in whom Illinoisans again placed their trust for the next four years.

"While we will study these preliminary numbers, the context regarding their accuracy is important," read a statement from Gov. J.B. Pritzker. "Illinois remains one of the most populous states in the nation and long-term trends remain encouraging." Long-term trends? The long-term trend is nine con-

secutive years of population loss. That's the opposite of encouraging.

Denial and obfuscation are familiar Pritzker tactics. Either he lives in a Gold Coast La-La Land, or he's unwilling to address the alarm bells because that would mean he has to do some leading toward solutions and spend some of the political capital he's apparently preserving for a presidential bid.

Don't expect a new chapter of "Profiles in Courage" about Illinois' governor, even though no problem could be quite as big and cry out for a solution as much as the exodus of Illinoisans deciding they can do better somewhere else. It takes courage and leadership to sway your special interests into at least staying silent about doing what's right.

Poor public policy is driving people out of Illinois. Fixing those policies is easy, but surviving those changes politically is darned near impossible in this state.

Better housing and better job opportunities typically are why people leave Illinois, and public policy heavily impacts both. Public policy always has a price tag, and poor public policy tends toward bigger price tags. Nearly half of Illinoisans said they have thought about moving away, reporting taxes as their No. 1 reason.

And when we lose neighbors, we lose the ones least likely to need services and most likely to be lucrative sources of government revenue.

Internal Revenue Service data for 2020 tax returns showed Illinois lost 100,921 residents and nearly \$8.5 billion in adjusted gross income on net to other states. Those leaving

Illinois had \$30,606 in income per tax return more than those coming here.

So even if Pritzker and the supermajorities of Democrats in the Illinois General Assembly fear the public unions and their other campaign backers, you'd think keeping the skilled, well-paid workforce at home in Illinois with their \$8.5 billion in taxable income would motivate them. You can't spend what you can't tax.

But let's pretend Pritzker is a population expert and Illinois isn't really losing people ... no, seriously. Illinois is losing corporate headquarters as companies seek growing markets, greater safety, and better regulatory and tax environments: Boeing, Citadel, Tyson, Caterpillar and Highland Ventures are all heading for the state line.

Caterpillar CEO Jim Umpleby warned state leaders a decade ago that taxes and regulatory costs threatened his company's future in Illinois. He was ignored and the company now resides in Texas.

Illinois' ninth year of accelerating population loss sets an all-time record and it appears Illinois leaders again are ignoring it. More importantly, they are ignoring the message: high taxes, driven up at the state and local levels by unchecked growth in public pensions, is throttling the state.

Money talks, but woe to those who fail to listen to what it says as it's walking out the door. Pritzker and his friends in Springfield need to hear the message.

Brad Weisenstein is the managing editor for the Illinois Policy Institute, a non-partisan, free market think tank.

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Celebrate Mardi Gras with a Hurricane

Mardi Gras season's 2023 is about to kick into high gear, officially beginning on February 17 and running through Fat Tuesday on February 22.

The Mardi Gras parade schedule will pick up in the coming weeks, and you will need a few accessories if you plan on attending the festivities. You will need a brightly colored mask, beads, perhaps a funny hat, and the quintessential Mardi Gras cocktail: The Hurricane.

I love a cocktail with a good back story, this is one of my favorites. The Hurricane is a "problem solver" of a cocktail. Exactly what problem did the Hurricane solve? Too much rum. Yes, Pat O'Brien had a "too much rum" problem.

You may be wondering how a bar, especially one in New Orleans acquires "too much" rum, and why this is a problem. It all comes back to supply and demand, just as our economics professors promised it would.

During World War II there simply was not enough American whiskey to meet the demands of bars and restaurants. Remember, good whiskey needs to age in an oak barrel for several years before bottling and producers had been playing catch up since the end of prohibition.

Bourbon production was ramping up in the southern states, rye production was coming back online in the northern states, but the distributors simply could not meet the demands of consumers for whiskey.

One thing that the liquor distributors had plenty of was

rum, which was less popular than whiskey in the US market. The Caribbean rum producers were not subject to prohibition, and continued rum production throughout prohibition and through the 1930s.

This led to an abundance of rum following a period of several years during which rum producers did not have access to the US market.

New Orleans-based Pat O'Brien wanted whiskey for his bar, and he was willing to pay for it. Since liquor distributors were overrun with rum at the time, they insisted that their customers purchase a specified amount of rum if they wished to purchase a case of whiskey.

How much rum? In some cases bars were required to purchase 10, 20, or even as much as 50 cases of rum in order to acquire one case of whiskey.

Pat had cases of rum stacked behind the bar, in the storeroom, even outside the bar. Pat needed a way to unload the rum, and he found a delicious way to do so.

He concocted a drink that took a hefty four ounces of rum (that's right, four) and was surprisingly easy to drink. Pat blended some light and dark rums, added lemon juice and topped it off with passion fruit syrup. Passion fruit was also plentiful in New Orleans and often arrived on the same boats that brought rum to the US market.

A high volume drink need-

ed a high volume glass, and this drink fit perfectly in a large "Hurricane" glass. The name "Hurricane" comes from the large glass that resembles a hurricane lamp, not from the drink's association with hurricanes or New Orleans.

The Hurricane was initially popular with laborers on the local dock workers as it was an economical way to imbibe, but over time it became with synonymous with New Orleans, Bourbon Street, and Pat O'Brien's.

Pat O'Brien's has been and serving Hurricanes since 1933, but the recipe has changed a bit through the years. Their current version of the Hurricane is made from their own brand of Hurricane mix. They simply do not have enough time to make Hurricanes from scratch behind one of the busiest bars in the world.

If you sip the classic version of the Hurricane with a whopping four ounces of rum, you may be in for a short night.

The recipe below is a lighter version of the New Orleans classic, one that uses a combination of pineapple juice and triple sec in place of passion fruit. This proportional recipe may be adjusted to fit in any glass, large or small.

The pre-made Hurricane mixes tend to yield bright red drinks, but most scratch-made Hurricanes are more pinkish or orange in color. If you need more "red", add more grenadine.

This version is built in the glass, starting with a splash of Rose's Grenadine.

Following the splash of grenadine, fill the glass with ice and add two parts dark rum. The best dark rum options for this version of the Hurricane would be an aged Jamaican rum or a Virgin Islands rum. Myer's, Coruba, Goslings, and Cruzan are all a great fit for the Hurricane.

In addition to dark rum, this version of the Hurricane calls for triple sec. You do not have to use a high end triple sec in this recipe, Bol's or DeKuyper will get the job done.

Next, add the pineapple juice. Dole 100% unsweetened pineapple juice can be found behind most commercial bars as it performs well in rum drinks. Be sure and give the pineapple juice a good shake before adding it to your drink.

This updated version of the classic Hurricane may not pack the punch of the original, but it is delicious and sure to be a hit at your Fat Tuesday celebration. However you decide to celebrate Fat Tuesday 2023, be sure to designate a driver or make arrangements through your preferred rideshare app.

The Hurricane is built and served in a Hurricane glass.

Add splash of Rose's Grenadine to the bottom of a Hurricane glass

Fill glass with ice, then add:

- 2 parts dark rum
- 1 part triple sec
- 2 parts pineapple juice
- Stir gently, garnish with orange wedge and a cherry
- Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

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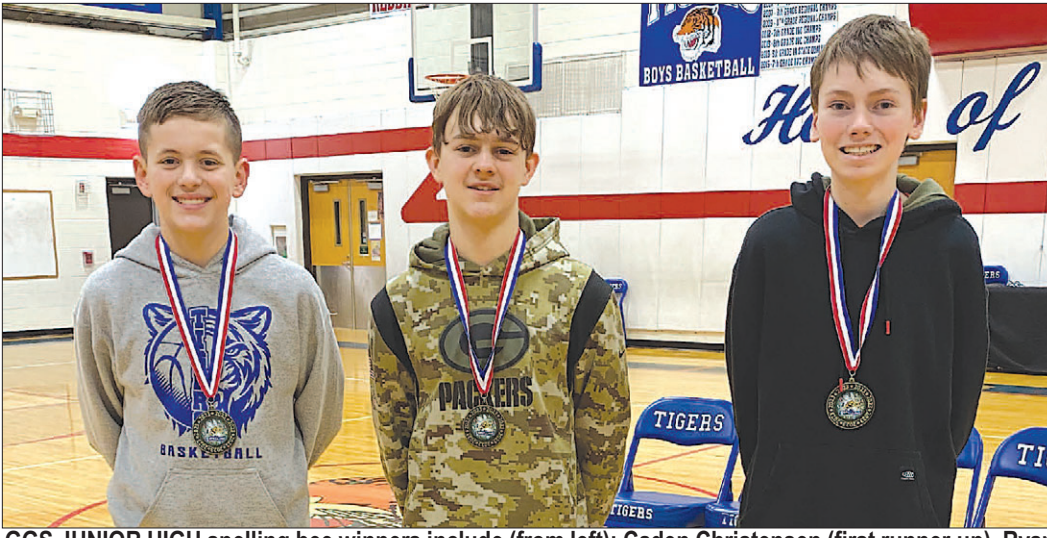
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Can you spell w-i-n-n-e-r-s



GARDNER GRADE SCHOOL hosted the 2023 GGS Jr. High Spelling Bee on Jan. 24. Students from grades 6-8th competed in this bee. Representing 6th grade were Brynn Christensen, Chris Titus, and Ryan Male. 7th grade representatives were Caden Christensen, Case Christensen, and Noah Himes. 8th grade was represented by Aidan Miller, Ella Mack, and Ryan Dennis. After several rounds of spelling, Ryan Dennis emerged as the 2023 Spelling Bee Champion. Ryan correctly spelled the word orca to win the title. Caden Christensen and Aidan Miller clinched the 1st and 2nd runner-up spots, respectively. Ryan Dennis will represent GGS in the (online) Grundy-Kendall County Bee in February with an opportunity to advance to the National Bee in Washington DC. GGS is so proud of Ryan, and wishes him continued success in his spelling. Spelling Bee contestants included (from left) Chris Titus, Ryan Male, Noah Himes, Case Christensen, Brynn Christensen, Ella Mack, Caden Christensen, Ryan Dennis and Aidan Miller.



GGS JUNIOR HIGH spelling bee winners include (from left): Caden Christensen (first runner-up), Ryan Dennis (champion), Aidan Miller (2nd runner-up).

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Dropoff string lights, electronics next week

Will County's free electronics drop-off event will be held Thursday, Feb. 9, from 5-7 p.m. at the Wilmington City Hall parking lot, 1165 S. Water St.

Holiday string lights that are no longer working may be dropped off for recycling. This is for string lights only, no stand alone LEDs, CFLs or other fluorescent lights.

Participants are reminded to remain in their vehicles at all times, show ID by holding it to the window for staff to see and then allow staff to remove items without assistance from each vehicle.

Items accepted include: Televisions (limit 2), monitors, printers, computers (desktops,

laptops, notebooks, tablets), electronic keyboards, fax machines, videocassette recorders, portable digital music players, DVD players, DVD recorders, video game consoles, small scale servers, scanners, electronic mice, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite receivers, cell phones, computer cable, portable digital assistants (PDAs) and zip drives.

Electronic items contain materials that can be recycled countless times while other materials in items are considered hazardous.

The recycling takes place in Wilmington the second Thursday of each month. An ID showing Will County residency may be required.

Grundy Bank urges high school seniors to enter scholarship contest

Grundy Bank is encouraging high school seniors from Coal City, Reed-Custer and Wilmington to enter a scholarship competition that involves a statewide essay-writing contest.

It is all part of a program sponsored by Illinois community banks and the CBAI Foundation for Community Banking to increase public awareness of locally owned banks and their contributions to the community.

A monetary award in the amount of \$1,000 a year for up to four years of higher education will be awarded to the

author of the best essay submitted to the CBAI Foundation by a participating Illinois high school senior.

Up to 11 additional first-place \$1,000 awards and 12-second place \$500 awards are available in each of the regions of the state. An additional \$500 will be awarded to the high school of the overall winner.

Grundy Bank is inviting seniors to submit a one-page essay on the theme "How are fintechs impacting the banking industry?"

Length of the essay is not to exceed one-page on the

theme; double spaced, using Times New Roman font, and 10-12-point size.

Information on the contest is available at the bank and the school; essays must be submitted to the bank by Feb. 20. The bank will then submit selected essays to the CBAI Foundation to be eligible for the statewide competition.

For more information, please contact Christine Mendez, Marketing & Sales Director at cmendez@grundy.bank or 815-513-2241.

Forest Preserve launches yearlong 'Take It Outside' campaign, app challenge

The Forest Preserve District of Will County wants you to "Take It Outside" in 2023.

This yearlong campaign is designed to entice you to get back to nature or discover it for the first time. The campaign also will educate participants about the many health benefits - mental and physical - of spending time outdoors.

The campaign features a challenge. To take part in the challenge, participants can download the free Goosechase app on their smartphones.

After downloading the app, search for 6DW83B or The Take It Outside Challenge, and create a profile. For details on creating a profile and challenge rules, visit the ReconnectWithNature.org.

Challenge participants will receive points for completing missions and those missions will update weekly. There will be approximately 10 different challenges added per week including GPS-based activities.

For instance, participants will be asked to take photos at specific spots, use the app to check in a trailheads and other preserve locations, hike to a pre-selected spot in a preserve or correctly answer trivia questions.

Each month, the Forest Preserve will randomly select individuals who completed any of the missions to receive prizes, which will be mailed.

At the completion of the online challenge on Dec. 31, the top three point earners will

get prizes in the form of MasterCard gift cards: \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place and \$150 for third place.

"The app will be a fun, interactive component of this campaign that hopefully will encourage everyone to 'take it outside' and explore preserves or parts of preserves they may never have set foot in before," said Chad Merda, the Forest Preserve's digital communications manager.

"With hundreds of missions throughout the year, there will be plenty of opportunities across the county for people to participate wherever they live."

Funding for this campaign is provided by The Nature Foundation of Will County, willcountynature.org.

Old State Capitol in Springfield to get \$15.1 million more in repairs

The Old State Capitol State Historic Site in Springfield is receiving long overdue attention thanks to a \$15.1 million preservation investment made possible by Governor JB Pritzker's bipartisan Rebuild Illinois capital plan.

Years of deferred maintenance are being addressed both inside and outside of the historic site in the heart of downtown Springfield. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) manages the site, and the Illinois Capital Development Board (CDB) is overseeing the work. The site is now closed to the public and will remain so for the duration of the project.

"The Old State Capitol is one of the most revered historic sites in Illinois," Governor Pritzker said. "I'm proud that our administration is investing in the preservation of the site to ensure future generations

can connect to this place and to the important lessons in history that are shared here."

The scope of work provides for removing and replacing the historic site roof, repairing damaged plaster, replacing wood flooring on the main and upper levels, basement waterproofing, restoring the perimeter fence, and upgrading one hydraulic and two traction elevators. In addition, the project includes remodeling and expanding the existing public restrooms, replacing the fire alarm system, and replacing plumbing systems. The project includes funding for the abatement of asbestos-containing materials.

This is the second phase of an ongoing preservation project at the site. The first phase focused on restoration of the building's drum (the structure that supports the dome). The total investment from both

phases is \$17.6 million.

"The Old State Capitol is the heart of the city. Not only does it host daily guided tours, it's also the site of such activities as naturalization ceremonies, History Comes Alive programs and holiday festivities," said IDNR site superintendent Justin Blandford.

The Old State Capitol, a reconstruction of Illinois' statehouse from 1840 to 1876, is the building in which John Jones and Frances Gage worked to expand the meaning of freedom and where Abraham Lincoln worked as a lawyer before the Supreme Court and delivered his famous "House Divided" speech in 1858.

The Old State Capitol is a National Historic Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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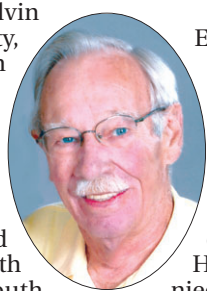


COAL CITY—Melvin August Smith, 85, of Coal City, passed away peacefully on Monday, Jan. 30, 2023 at his home.

Born Aug. 3, 1937 in Coal City, Melvin was a twin son of August and Harriet (Persak) Smith. Following the death of his mother at the age of three, Mel and his brother Marvin were raised by their aunt, Mary Helen Persak in South Wilmington. He attended the South Wilmington schools and graduated from Gardner South Wilmington High School with the class of 1955. Following high school, Mel entered the United States Army Reserves and was soon thereafter drafted into active service from Sept. 11, 1956 until June 11, 1958. Upon his honorable discharge, Mel went on to attend Illinois State University, where he played football and graduated with a bachelor's degree in education, emphasizing math and the sciences. He then went on to earn his master's degree from Wesleyan University.

On June 2, 1962, Mel married Elaine Hibler in Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church in Coal City, and together they made a home and raised their family in Coal City. Mel was an educator in the Coal City Unit #1 School District for 33 years until his retirement, primarily teaching Algebra, Physics and Analytical Geometry at the high school level. In addition, Mel started working for his brother, Marvin Smith's accounting office doing tax returns, and continued to do so for the following 50 years until recently with Mack and Associates. He also worked summers doing construction, and spent many years with Koerner Construction.

Mel was a member of Assumption of the BVM Parish in Coal City; the Coal City Area Club and the Illinois Education Association and National Education Association. In his free time, Mel enjoyed golf, fishing and crossing the friendship bridge to hang out with his lifelong dear friend, Jack Lardi. He had a true love of animals, and enjoyed countless trips made with his family. Mel adored his kids, and they were his pride and joy. His example of the importance of education has been carried through to his grandchildren, and their accomplishments could not have made him more proud.



Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Elaine; three children: Greg (Janet) Smith, of Grayslake, IL; Chris Smith, of Orland Park, IL and Michael (Faith) Smith, of Trevor, WI; six grandchildren: Tyler (Brittany) Smith, Jake Smith, Alex Smith, Paige Smith, Brooke Smith and Alaina Smith; one sister, Jean (the late Phil) Bohnstengel, of Pasco, WA; brother-in-law, Ron (Jan) Hibler, of Minooka and numerous nieces and nephews, as well as cousins, including Pamela (David) Bassett, of Maryland. Mel was preceded in death by his parents; his aunt, Helen Persak and his twin brother, Marvin Smith.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113 in Coal City on Friday, Feb. 3, 2023 between the hours of 4 and 7 p.m. and again on Saturday morning, Feb. 4, 2023 from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m. Funeral services will follow Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m. in Assumption of the BVM Church, 215 S. Kankakee St. in Coal City. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Reverend Josh Miller presiding, and Deacon Bill Dunn assisting. A memorial luncheon in the Berst Center will immediately follow the service, and cremation rites will be accorded.

Pallbearers will be: Tyler Smith, Jake Smith, Alex Smith, Brock Bunton, Dan Greggain and Mark Micetich.

Mel will be laid to rest with military honors in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood on Monday, Feb. 6, 2023. Those wishing to attend are welcome to assemble at the funeral home on Monday beginning at 12:30 p.m. for a procession, which will depart at 12:45 p.m. Military honors are scheduled at 1:30 p.m.

Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may be made as gifts in Mel's memory to the Unit #1 Educational Foundation, P.O. Box 177, Coal City, IL 60416 or to Assumption Catholic Church, 195 S. Kankakee, Street, Coal City, IL 60416.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Mel's memorial page online through social media.

Funeral services and cremation arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Coal City.

Zachary Alesky

MARSEILLES—Zachary William Alesky, 20, of Marseilles, and formerly of Morris, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, Jan. 23, 2023 as the result of an accident.

Born Nov. 2, 2002 in Olympia Fields, IL, Zachary William was the son of Robert William and Kimberly Sue (Janca) Alesky, of Morris. Raised and educated in Morris, Zak graduated from Morris High School with the class of 2021. One who loved the outdoors, was an all sport athlete, and raced motocross, Zak was equally excited about his faith, and was baptized and active at Families of Faith Church in Channahon.

On Sept. 17, 2022, Zak married his high school sweetheart and his one and only girl, McKenna Montgomery. Together they made a home together in Marseilles along with their dogs, Cash and Krypto. Zak's stellar work ethic gained his employment with MECO Steel and Skyhigh Coasters in Morris at the age of 15, and he grew into the family business to excel into becoming a custom sheet metal fabricator, who was proud to be active in building theme park rides, welding, and was in the process of learning to be a crane operator. The sky was the limit for Zak, and he was always willing to do and try anything while being gracious of the opportunities before him.

Survivors include his wife, McKenna; parents: Robert and Kimberly Alesky and Justin and Crystal Montgomery, both of Morris; siblings: Timothy Janca, of Florida and Sydney Alesky, Chase Montgomery, Lilah Montgomery,



Eden Montgomery and Honor Montgomery; grandparents: Arlene Alesky, of Alsip, IL; Linda and Jerry Rea, of Alabama and Ken and Cindy Muzzo, of Michigan; great-grandmother, Elaine Muzzo, of Michigan; aunts and uncles: Julie (Ken) Olsted, of Indiana; Jeanne (Tony) DiCostanzo, of Bolingbrook; Tom (Sue) Christensen, of Alabama; Jessica Muzzo, of Tennessee and Ryan (Dixie) Muzzo, of Florida and many cousins, as well as friends.

Zak was preceded in death by his grandfather, Frank Alesky; great-grandfather, Victor Muzzo and one aunt, Sharon Alesky.

Funeral services were held at Families of Faith Church in Channahon on Monday, Jan. 30, 2023. Pastor Randy Blan officiated.

A family burial and graveside service was held Tuesday in Sample Cemetery in Morris, where Zak was laid to rest. Pallbearers were: Robert Alesky, Justin Montgomery, Chase Montgomery, Ethan Kubina, Brandon Mazzoni, Justin Olsted and Jacob Olsted.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Zak's memory to Families of Faith Church, 24466 E. Eames Street, Channahon, IL 60410.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.reevesfuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Zak's memorial page online through social media.

Funeral services and arrangements were made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Morris.

Sharon Hart

WILMINGTON—Sharon Hart, 80, of Wilmington, passed away Monday, Jan. 16, 2023 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born Aug. 3, 1942 on Jefferson Barracks Military Base in Missouri, Sharon Marie was a daughter of Robert G. and Arielle (Roberts) Miller. She was raised and educated in Missouri and graduated from Fox High School in Arnold, MO. On Valentine's Day of 1962, Sharon met Patrick Hart who she went on to marry June 16, 1962 in Arnold. Together they made a home and raised a family.

One whose life was centered on family and faith, Sharon was always active in church, throughout the years having been active with First Baptist Church in Downers Grove, IL; Grace Baptist Church in Lombard, IL and most recently Island City Baptist Church in Wilmington. For many years, Sharon and Patrick wintered in Florida, spending more than the past decade in Arcadia, where she also assisted as a secretary at Riverside Church. In addition, Sharon was active with AWANA for many years as a coach and leader and assisted as a cookie coordinator.

Sharon had a deep love of reading, took great pleasure in traveling, and created many memories throughout the entire United States, particularly enjoying to visit the west. Colorado was a favorite destination, as was Rocky Mountain National Park, Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. This was in line with her appreciation of outdoors and love of hiking and biking.



Gone from our sight, Sharon leaves behind a collection of special memories, as well as a legacy of being a loving and caring wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, who cherished her family.

Survivors include her husband of 60 years, Patrick; two sons and daughters-in-law: Patrick Mark and Janet Hart, of Kernersville, NC and Michael Robert and Deborah Hart, of Gurnee, IL;

four grandchildren: Glenn Hart and Nicole (Cory) East, both of North Carolina and Bonnilyn Hart and Nathan Hart, both of Gurnee and two great-grandchildren, Levi and Olevia East.

Sharon was preceded in death by her parents.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Island City Baptist Church, 120 Vine St. in Wilmington on Sunday, Feb. 5, 2023 from 2 p.m. until the time of service at 4 p.m. Pastor Jeff Logsdon will officiate.

A private family inurnment will follow in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, where Sharon will be laid to rest in the columbarium.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Sharon's memorial page online.

Cremation services and memorial services have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

Bobbi Jo Blomlie

WATSEKA—Bobbi Jo Blomlie, 37, of Watseka, IL and formerly of Kankakee, passed away Thursday, Jan. 26, 2023.

Born Aug. 13, 1985 in Oak Lawn, IL, Bobbi Jo was a daughter of Loretta (Gunn) Talley and Charles Blomlie Sr. She was raised in the Kankakee area and worked as a private caregiver. Bobbi enjoyed everything summer and took pleasure in boating and jet skiing. She loved taking her kids to the theme and amusement parks and was always up for checking out a garage sale. Bobbi enjoyed music, social media and cooking, and was great with technology and on computers.

Survivors include her parents, Loretta (Dale) Talley, of Watseka and Charles (Barb) Blomlie, of Wilmington; the father of her children, Anthony Varvell and their five children: Bryce Varvell, Aiden Varvell, Brody Varvell, Gianna Blomlie and Zander Varvell; siblings: April (Hilario) Martinez, of Aroma Park; Charles Blomlie Jr., of Kankakee and Crystal Blomlie, of Arkansas; nieces and nephews: Zacarias, Javier, Elizabeth, Alyssa, Mercedes, Destinee, Diamond and Isaac and several aunts and uncles.

Bobbi was preceded in death by her maternal and paternal grandparents, two uncles, Jim



Cochran Jr. and Larry Blomlie and one aunt, Linda Clark.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Friday, Feb. 3, 2023 from 10 a.m. until the time of service at 12 p.m. Pastor Joe Hughes from Centennial Christian Church in Watseka will officiate.

Those wishing to participate in the services virtually are welcome to join the live stream beginning at 12 noon on Friday, Feb. 3, 2023 or watch on demand after the conclusion of the services. A link is provided on Bobbi's memorial page.

Burial will follow in Aroma Park Cemetery. Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may be made as gifts in Bobbi's memory to her family for their distribution to the benefit of her children.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.baskervillefuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Bobbi's memorial page online through social media.

Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

Yvonne King

ROCKFORD—Yvonne M. King, 62, of Rockford, IL passed away on Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023.

Yvonne was born in Rockford, on April 4, 1960, the daughter of Robert Okas and Norma (Nelson) Pottorff. She graduated from Reed-Custer High School in Braidwood. She just retired from Syncreon thankfully, this past fall. Yvonne has many friends, and she loved her clubs. She was a member of the Navy Club for many years as well as the VFW. She was excited to have recently joined the Lyran Society. Yvonne loved to be the "crazy cat lady." She was always the life of the party. Yvonne had such a big personality, unique sense of humor, with her many facial expressions. Anyone that knew her enjoyed her company and she will be dearly missed.



Yvonne is survived by her twin children, Janae James-Warhurst (Joe) and Justin James; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; brothers, Steve Okas, Larry (Laurie) Pottorff, sister, Michelle (Mike) Stiles and many nieces and nephews she loved like her own.

She is predeceased by her husband, John King; parents and brother, Gary Okas and sister, Theresa Cremeens.

A Gathering of Family and Friends was held on Monday, Jan. 23, 2023, with a Time of Sharing and Prayers at Fitzgerald Funeral Home & Crematory, 1860 S Mulford Rd. Rockford, IL 61108.

Share online memories and condolences at www.fitzgeraldfh.com

JoAnne Peters

COAL CITY— JoAnne Peters, 90, of Coal City, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, Jan. 27, 2023 at Morris Hospital.

Born Feb. 17, 1932 in Big Stone Gap, WV, JoAnne was a daughter of Henry and Bernice (Barker) Watters. She was raised in Braidwood and Coal City, and graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1950. On Sept. 2, 1950, JoAnne married George Thomas Peters in the Coal City United Methodist Church, and together they made a home and raised a family together.

JoAnne after marriage worked at the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant, however later gained employment with the Coal City Schools. She began in the library, but was employed most of her career as a secretary in the Elementary School Office for more than 30 years until retiring. JoAnne was an active and dedicated member of the Coal City United Methodist Church, where she participated in various groups over the years including Sunshine Circle, Friendship Circle and Bible Study. She was proud to have authored the Coal City United Methodist Church Mission Statement and in addition served as a lay minister. Outside of church, JoAnne bowled for many years on a league and volunteered with the Coal City Food Pantry. She loved yoga, and taught locally, as well as at Inwood Park District through Joliet Junior College for more than 40 years. JoAnne had a passion for reading and writing; took pleasure in fishing, and enjoyed bird watching, particularly the Purple Martins. One who always enjoyed a good cup of coffee, JoAnne shared many great card and poker games surrounded with her dear lady friends. She was also blessed to create many wonderful memories on count-



less trips with family to Minnesota.

A devoted wife, mom, grandma and great-grandma, JoAnne cherished the time spent with her beloved family, and leaves behind a priceless collection of memories with those who were fortunate to know her.

Survivors include her loving husband of 72 years, Tom; two sons: John (Janet) Peters, of Coal City and Daniel (Cathy) Peters, of Carbon Hill; five grandsons: T.J. (Nikki) Peters, of Oak Park, IL; Tim (Beth) Peters, of Frankfort, IL; Ed (Brenda) Strahan and Ryan Peters, both of Braidwood and Nick Peters, of Coal City; eight great-grandchildren: Jackson, Alice, Daphne, Elliott, Abby, Zach, Addison and Sophia.

JoAnne was preceded in death by her parents, step-mother, Sylvia Watters; one son, James Peters; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Calvin and Joann Peters and one nephew, Calvin Peters.

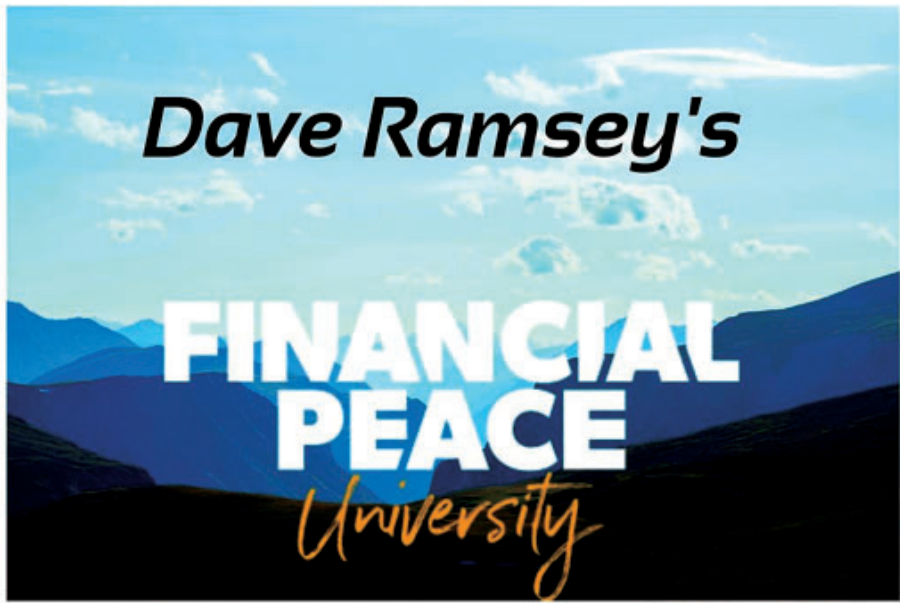
Funeral services were held at the Coal City United Methodist Church on Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023. Pastor Jay Regennitter officiated.

JoAnne will be laid to rest at a later date in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in JoAnne's memory to the Coal City United Methodist Church or to the Coal City Food Pantry.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign onto www.reevesfuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share JoAnne's memorial page online through social media.

Cremation services and memorial arrangements were made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Coal City.



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OBITUARIES

Ronald W. Reeves

WILMINGTON—Ronald W. Reeves, 79, of Wilmington, passed away Oct. 18, 2022 at Silver Cross Hospital in New Lenox, IL.
 Born Oct. 19, 1942 in Joliet, he was the son of the late Walter and Elta (nee Darling) Reeves. Ron retired from Caterpillar Tractor. He was a member and served faithfully at the Christian Life Assembly in Diamond and was also a member of the Wilmington Lions Club. He enjoyed golfing.
 Surviving are one son, Michael Reeves, of Naperville, IL and his loving companion, Patricia Shannon.
 Cremation rites have been accorded. A

Memorial Service will be at the Christian Life Assembly, 2960 E. Division St., Diamond on Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023 at 1 p.m. Light refreshments will be served following the memorial. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Christian Life Assembly.
 For more information and to visit his online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpatersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on Facebook.
 R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood is in charge of arrangements.

Patrick J. Sweeney II

WILMINGTON—Patrick J. Sweeney II, 61, of Wilmington, formerly Chicago, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, Jan. 23, 2023 at Ascension St. Joseph Medical Center.
 Born Oct. 28, 1961 in Chicago, he was the son of Patrick J. and Patricia Ann (Gallagher) Sweeney. Patrick was raised and educated in Chicago, and briefly, in 1986, spent some time on Inis Treabhair, Ireland. In 1997 he married Susan Witchek in Chicago and together they cherished 26 years. Patrick had a true love for all things sports, but was most proud of being a die hard Chicago Cubs Fan. He loved driving, having worked for both Knight and Holland Trucking for many years as a member of Local Teamsters #179. Beyond enjoying sports, you could always find Patrick drinking his favorite beverage Pepsi, and spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren who he loved being the greatest Papa too.
 Survivors include his wife, Susan, of Wilmington; one son, Patrick J. Sweeney III; two daughters, Jessica (Brandon) Keymon, of Braidwood and Nikki (Bill) Melka; eight grandchildren: Hunter (Julia), Haylee and Halayna Keymon; Nuala, Aiden, Liam, Keira and Seamus



Melka; one great-granddaughter, Nora Raelynn Keymon; two sisters, Kathleen (Carlton "Cully") Vojtech, of Salem and Pamela Patterson, of Chicago; several cousins and brothers and sisters-in-law; as well as, numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and friends.
 Patrick was preceded in death by his parents and father and mother-in-law, Thomas (Barbara) Witchek.
 The family will receive friends at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd., in Wilmington on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023 from 11 a.m. until time of funeral service at 1 p.m.. Cremation rites will be accorded following services.
 Preferred memorials in Patrick's memory may be made as gifts to the family for their distribution.
 Friends and family are encouraged to log onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the online guestbook, submit photos and share Patrick's memorial page via social media.
 Funeral and cremation services have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

Container gardening tips? Hear an expert on Feb. 15

Looking for tips on container gardening? Then you might want to sit in on the next Wilmington Garden Club meeting at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 15, at the Wilmington Park District building, 315 N. Water St.
 Special guest will be Gary Ward, a master gardener from Lockport who specializes in container gardening.
 Ward, former president of the Will County Historical Society, will address all container gardening questions during the free event.
 Garden Club meetings are open to the public and bring a friend. For more information

call 815-476-2469.

IDENTITY THEFT TIP
 Don't use public Wi-Fi to shop or bank online.

Local students named to dean's list

Loras College in Dubuque, IA has announced the names of students who achieved dean's list status for the 2022 fall semester. A student must earn a 3.5 grade point average and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours to be recognized.
 Local students named on the list are Aaron McMurtrey, of Coal City; Jordan Wiers, of Morris and Katelyn McCann, of Wiumlinton.

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Price at the pump climbing

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have risen 13.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.65/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.
 In Braidwood Monday's price averaged \$3.69 at stations that were charging \$3.52 the week before. In Coal City the price varied Monday from \$3.69 to \$3.78, up from \$3.49. Wilmington stations were at a \$3.74 average, up from \$3.49.
 "The national average price of gasoline has risen for the fifth straight week as retailers pass along the rise in wholesale gasoline prices due to continued challenges: refinery utilization that still hasn't fully recovered from December's cold weather, and refinery maintenance season that's just around the corner," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.
 Prices in Illinois are 41.9 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 15.0 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has risen 5.4 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.65 per gallon.
 "There appears to be little good news on the gas price front, with prices unlikely to turn around any time soon. Because of the surge in prices last spring, many refineries that had planned maintenance deferred maintenance until 2023. With the can kicked to this year, we may have similar challenges producing enough refined products to meet demand, especially with the European Union cutting off refined products from Russia starting Feb. 5."
 The cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$3.07/g while the most expensive was \$4.68/g, a difference of \$1.61/g. The national average price is averaging \$3.49/g., up 33.3 cents per gallon from a month ago.

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MAZON \$398,000
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Applications are being taken for one, part time-9 month, 4 hours per day Custodial/Maintenance position. Please contact Jim Habing at jhabing@209u.net or phone 815-926-1725. Resumes should be sent to: Mr. Jim Habing, Wilmington High School, 209U Wildcat Court, Wilmington, IL 60481

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Seeking Qualified Applicants for Firefighters/Paramedics

The Wilmington Fire Protection District is seeking qualified applicants to establish an eligibility list for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic with the District.

Starting Salary: \$58,275.00

QUALIFICATIONS

- Applicant must be at least 21 years of age and under 35 years of age at the time of submission of an application unless otherwise provided by state or federal law
- Be a citizen of the United States
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent (GED)
- Possess a valid class B non CDL driver's license in the State of Illinois
- Be certified as a Basic Operations Firefighter or Firefighter II through the Office of the State Fire Marshall in the State of Illinois prior to conditional offer.
- Be certified as a Paramedic in the State of Illinois (IDPH EMT-P) prior to conditional offer.

Applications will be available to qualified candidates January 17th, 2023 - February 17th, 2023 between the hours of 8:00am-3:00pm, Monday-Friday at Station #1, 501 N. Main Street, Wilmington, IL. \$30 non-refundable processing fee (Cash/check only) is due upon receipt of application.

A valid driver's license must be presented in order to obtain an application. Only one application per candidate will be given.

Completed application shall be returned to the above address no later than 3:30 pm on February 17th, 2023. Failure to complete the application in its entirety shall be grounds for rejection from the process. Applicants must attend the following:

- Orientation/Written Exam: Friday, February 17th, 2023 at 6 pm Sharp (No one will be allowed in the room after 6 pm)
- Oral Interviews: February 22nd and February 24th, 2023.
- Physical Ability: Must have a CPAT card with ladder climb issued no more than 365 days prior to conditional offer.

The Rules and Regulations of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Wilmington Fire Protection District, will govern all facets of the hiring process, a copy of which is available for viewing at the District's Station#1. If you have any questions please call (815)-476-6675.

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2023

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Here's why carmakers are leaving Illinois

The Rockford Register-Star reported last week that the state of Illinois "has submitted what could be its best offer to keep the Belvidere Assembly Plant operating and save what could be thousands of jobs."

Stellantis announced in December it would idle its Jeep Cherokee assembly plant in February. So, there appears to be a glimmer of hope that the state can finally notch a victory with a carmaker after years of trying.

And Jalopnik recently reported that Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin told the Ford Motor Co. that he didn't want their \$3.5 billion electric vehicle battery plant which would employ 2,500 workers because the company had partnered with China.

Ford already has a big assembly plant in Chicago. Maybe the state could capitalize on this Virginia thing?

But something else happened in December which highlighted why Illinois has had so much trouble closing deals with the automotive industry, even with a couple of lucrative subsidy laws passed within the last year or so.

Volkswagen filed a federal lawsuit in December that described a bill which overwhelmingly passed both Illinois legislative chambers and was signed into law in 2021 as, "crony capitalism at work: redistributive legislation that takes hundreds of millions of dollars from some (but not all) motor vehicle manufacturers and, for no public purpose, deposits that money directly into the pockets of politically favored Illinois [car] dealers." The automaker claims the law is costing it an extra \$10 million a year.

The bill in question (HB3940) was hotly opposed by automotive manufacturers. The law forces manufacturers to reimburse car dealers at a much higher rate (the auto industry says it's a 50 percent higher rate) for warranty repairs.

The bill came about after a labor dispute between dealerships and a mechanics union. They apparently decided to let the carmakers pay to resolve their monetary dispute, although the mechanics ended up on strike anyway because the dealers allegedly kept the new windfall initially instead of passing it through.

Just about every state legislator has multiple auto dealers in their districts and Democrats have been eagerly allying themselves ever closer with organized labor in past years, so the bill hit a sweet spot with both parties and cleared the House 85-24 and then passed the Senate without a single dissenting vote a few weeks later.

The manufacturers say the law is costing the industry \$240 million a year. Yes, you read that right. \$240 million. Per year. They claim Illinois has the highest warranty repair costs in the nation. By far.

The manufacturers were furious and remain so. And since the cost of doing business in a state is a main factor in deciding where to locate a new plant or keep a plant open, the law is not helping Illinois overcome automaker



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

(Ohio, like Illinois, is not a "right to work" state, but has a new concierge system to quickly clear red tape), and you can see why the state hasn't yet convinced a national or international corporation to construct an electric vehicle-related facility here.

It's no secret that Illinois has reputational issues. People love to run Illinois down. It seems to be a major sport everywhere. When Gov. JB Pritzker recently appeared on CNBC while he was at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, the first question he faced was how he would attract businesses when so many existing businesses want to leave Illinois.

That 2021 law merely added to the state's reputational problems. Manufacturers say that the

objections. The subsidies the state can offer simply don't compare with the gigantic annual cost of that 2021 law. Couple that with our high local property taxes (these electric vehicle plants take up huge amounts of space) and other costs and hurdles

bipartisan eagerness to quickly throw them under the bus is something they hadn't ever witnessed before here. The substance was bad enough, but the process was outrageous, they say. One industry lobbyist called the process a "radical departure" from the past. The whole thing is understandably given them quite a bit of pause.

Even so, a key labor leader says unions haven't yet been approached to repeal or modify the law (manufacturers disagree) and an official with the governor's office says they are unaware that this remains a big issue with carmakers.

I suppose we'll see what happens with the Stellantis Belvidere plant in the coming days. If Pritzker does cut a deal and convinces the company to stay and even expand, he'll have overcome some gargantuan hurdles.

Rich Miller also publishes Capitol Fax, a daily political newsletter, and CapitolFax.com.



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Coal City United Methodist Church to host soup supper

Coal City United Methodist Church, located at 6805 E. McArdle Road in Coal City, will hold a "Hallelujah" Soup Supper on Saturday, Feb. 4 from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

They will be serving their delicious homemade Chicken Noodle & Stuffed Green Pepper soups. Each meal

includes your choice of soup, a sandwich, crackers, a beverage, ice cream & dessert.

Carry-outs are available. The cost is \$12 for ages 13 & older; \$5 for children ages 3 - 12; and children age 2 & under eat free. All proceeds will go to the church's building fund. Tickets will be sold at the door.

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Janet Fisher-Schatz **815-263-5990**

Custer Park Fire Dept. offering smoke detectors

The Custer Park Fire Department is teaming up with the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance to provide safety education as well as free 10-year sealed battery smoke detectors.

This program was started by firefighter/paramedic Leslie Crum who was the victim of a house fire in 2018 and suffered smoke inhalation after going back inside for a family pet and noticed the smoke detectors that previously had worked, were not.

Thankfully Crum saved the dog, but almost lost her life due to being overcome with smoke. She was taken to a local hospital where she was placed on a ventilator to

breathe and then was flown by Life Flight to a burn center in Rockford, IL.

Now Leslie has a passion for public safety and education and wanted to bring a smoke detector program to her fire department.

The smoke detector program is designed to educate Illinois residents on the dangers of home fires and how to prevent fires from occurring as well as making sure residents have the proper working smoke detector.

The 10-year sealed battery detector ensures that the power source can not be removed from the detector. If properly maintained, these detectors will last their 10-year lifetime.

For more information on the smoke detector and installation program, please contact Leslie at 815-252-4768 or paramediccrum@yahoo.com.

Bradley Univ. dean's list

More than 1800 students were named to Bradley University's fall dean's list for achieving a minimum 3.5 grade point average for the semester on a 4.0 scale.

Local students named on the list include Natalya Hatfield and Andrea Cruise, of Mazon; Carmella Barkley, of Diamond and Tanner Sula, of Morris.

The Endangered Species Act restoring threatened species

Dear EarthTalk: The Endangered Species Act has been around for five decades. How successful has it been in protecting and restoring threatened and endangered species?

—A.J. Munson, Bern, NC
The Endangered Species Act (ESA) has been successful in preventing the extinction of hundreds of wildlife species and in promoting the recovery of thousands more since its inception in 1973.

Some of the species that have been successfully recovered and removed from the list of threatened and endangered species include American alligators, bald eagles, peregrine falcons and humpback whales.

According to the Center of Biological Diversity, a leading U.S.-based non-profit with the simple mission of "saving life on Earth," the ESA has protected more than 1,600 species in the U.S., preventing the extinction of 99 percent of the species listed under it.

Without the ESA, at least 227 species would likely have gone extinct by now since the law's passage in 1973. In addition, 110 species have seen tremendous recovery since being protected by the act.

The ESA also supports conservation outside the U.S., as the federal government uses the law to enforce the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species



(CITES), a global agreement between nations to regulate trade on species under threat.

Examples of the ESA's reach beyond U.S. borders is in helping save giant pandas as well as several species of tiger.

However, it's important to note that the ESA has not been successful in all cases, and some species have not recovered as expected or have even gone extinct despite being protected under the Act, especially in more recent years.

There are many factors that can affect the success or failure of species recovery efforts, including habitat loss, climate change, disease and human activities. But researchers from Columbia and Princeton concluded that one threat looms even larger: lack of adequate funding for conservation efforts.

Their October 2022 study found that, since 1985, ESA funding has decreased by almost 50 percent when measured on a per species basis.



THESE PEREGRINE FALCON chicks might not have been born if their ancestors hadn't been protected by the Endangered Species Act. Credit: Teterin Oleg.

Furthermore, they uncovered that the average wait time for a species to be listed has almost doubled over the decades from 5.9 years during the 1990s to some 9.1 years more recently.

The upshot is that by the time a species receives protection, it may have already reached extremely low population levels to the point where the ESA may be ineffective.

Overall, the ESA has played a crucial role in the conservation of threatened and endangered species in the U.S., and it continues to be a key tool for protecting and recovering these species. This

groundbreaking piece of legislation, now in its 50th year, has done incredible things for American wildlife.

It has protected species of plants and animals and brought them back to sustainable population numbers. However, a few success stories don't make the act perfect. There is still work to be done to improve the ESA's effectiveness and ensure that it can preserve the species that we all love and know today.

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	63	64						65						
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CLUES ACROSS

- Shed tears
- Luxury jewelry designer
- Goddess of wisdom
- Convert into a particular form
- Working-class people
- It borders Canada (abbr.)
- A princess can detect its presence
- Red-brown sea bream
- Defunct retail empire
- Vase
- Demeter's equivalent
- Monetary unit of the Maldives
- French and Belgian river
- Small amount
- High schoolers' test
- Animal's foot
- Some is red
- Per ___: each
- Swedish jazz pop duo
- Plate for Eucharist
- Train line
- Russian pop duo
- Stake
- Plant by scattering
- Female sibling
- City of Angels hoopsters (abbr.)
- Popular cookie brand
- Group of Niger-Congo languages
- A team's best pitcher
- Vomits
- 19th letter of Greek alphabet
- Men's fashion accessory
- Its capital is Pierre (abbr.)
- Expensive cut of steak
- Popular James Cameron film
- A ___: relating to knowledge gleaned from deduction
- Kids' snow toys
- Flip side to yin

CLUES DOWN

- Global public health agency
- Snake-like fish
- Midway between northeast and east
- Dabbed
- TV show
- Folk singer DiFranco
- Canadian flyers
- Of the dowry
- Commercial
- The act of imitating
- Equipment used to broadcast radio or TV signals
- Lands of an emir
- Swiss river
- Island
- Monetary unit of Afghanistan
- One who surrenders under agreed conditions
- Garfield is one
- A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- Small boats used in the Black Sea
- Small savory Spanish dishes
- Body part
- Touch lightly
- Popular grilled foods on a stick
- ___ Hess: oil company
- Antelope with a reddish coat
- Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
- Pink Floyd's Roger
- Short and thick
- Small, sac-like cavities
- Performer ___-Lo
- Entrails of animal used as food
- ___ King Cole, musician
- Where construction is done
- Chap
- Investment vehicle
- Often mixed with tonic
- Holiday beverage egg ___
- Against

Vanity plates you won't see on Illinois roads

There will be no PEEPEE, SUKIT or DUCKYOU for Illinois drivers.

Those are just a few of the nearly 400 requests for vanity and personalized license plates that were rejected by the Illinois Secretary of State's office in 2022, according to Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias.

Last year, 54,236 Illinoisans requested vanity and personalized plate requests and 383 were shot down due to their tawdry, lewd or offensive nature or because they were difficult to read.

"We love the creativity and pride Illinoisans take in choosing their personalized license plates," said Secretary Giannoulias. "Most plate requests are approved, but a small percentage fail to meet the standards of good taste and decency and are rejected because they

violate the state's vehicle code."

The Secretary of State's office oversees the process by which Illinoisans may request specific vanity or personalized license plates for their vehicles. Many use the office's popular Pick-a-Plate feature on the website ilsos.gov which allows the applicant to type in different combinations of letters, or letters and numbers, to see if they are available for purchase.

A small panel in the office's Vehicle Services Department reviews the license plate requests to prevent offensive language. Among those rejected included: PEEPEE, GOTPOOP, SUCKER, KISSASH, SUKIT, BITEU, DUCKYOU, COKAIN, HAILNO, WHTHFUK and WMWWWMW.

Secretary Giannoulias said his office maintains an ever-growing rejection list, which currently stands at more than

7,000 license plate combinations deemed offensive or difficult to read.

The Secretary of State's office has issued a total of 922,147 vanity or personalized license plates to Illinoisans. Of this number, 312,399 are considered vanity plates, meaning they contain all letters, and 609,748 of the plates are considered personalized plates containing a combination of letters and numbers specifically requested by the vehicle owner.

The cost of a standard passenger random license plate is \$151. The cost of a standard passenger vanity license plate at initial purchase is \$245, and subsequent annual renewals cost \$164. The cost of a standard passenger personalized license plate at initial purchase is \$198, and subsequent annual renewals cost \$158.

Veterans outreach to stop in Morris

The Edward Hines Jr. VA Medical Center Outreach Team, along with the Grundy County Veterans Assistance Commission, will continue outreach visits at the Morris American Legion, 212 W. Washington St.

The first visit of 2023 will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 6. The team plans to visit Morris monthly on the first Monday of each month.

The outreach team and the VAC staff can assist veterans with benefits. This event is free and open to all veterans and surviving spouses.

There have been significant changes and additions to federal benefits with the passage of recent legislation. Certain veterans are now eligible for expanded VA benefits.

If a veteran is interested in enrollment in the VA Health Care System, bring a copy of their DD214 and a government issued photo ID. One may be eligible for VA health care benefits if they served in the active military, naval, or air service and didn't receive a dishonorable discharge.

"We will be traveling to other locations in Grundy County throughout the year so if a veteran cannot get to see us in Morris, we will have additional opportunities during the year," said Ken Buck, superintendent of the Grundy VAC.

A veteran can also contact vac@grundycountyil.gov or call 815-941-3152 to ask general questions or to schedule an appointment in at the VAC office located within the Grundy County Administration Center in Morris.

Wilmington Freemason's chili cook-off seeks entries

The Wilmington Freemasons Lodge #208 will be having their 13th annual Chili Cook-Off to fund the Pedals for Progress program on Sunday, Feb. 26 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Tasting and a bowl of house chili \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids over 11 and free for

kids 11 and under. There will also be \$1 hot dogs available.

Wilmington Masonic Lodge is located at 311 Main St., Wilmington.

Think you have what it takes to be the Chili King? Register to be a contestant. Call Ben Stickel 815-370-7331 or Matt Lohmar 815-210-9606.

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Cutting the length of your shower time also saves water and energy and taking fewer

showers per week also reduces dry skin. Winter is prime time for dry skin due to our heating systems and natural outside conditions.

Setting your shower to warm, instead of hot and cutting out one or two each week may increase your personal comfort and help the environment.

In memory of Melissa Michalowski & Crystal Carr

Prom Dress Collection

Please donate your prom dresses for our dress event on Saturday March 4th at Godley Park District where all dresses are \$5.00 All students should be able to afford prom!

All students welcome

Melissa's Closet & Crystal's Jewelry Box has dressed over 4,207 students for prom

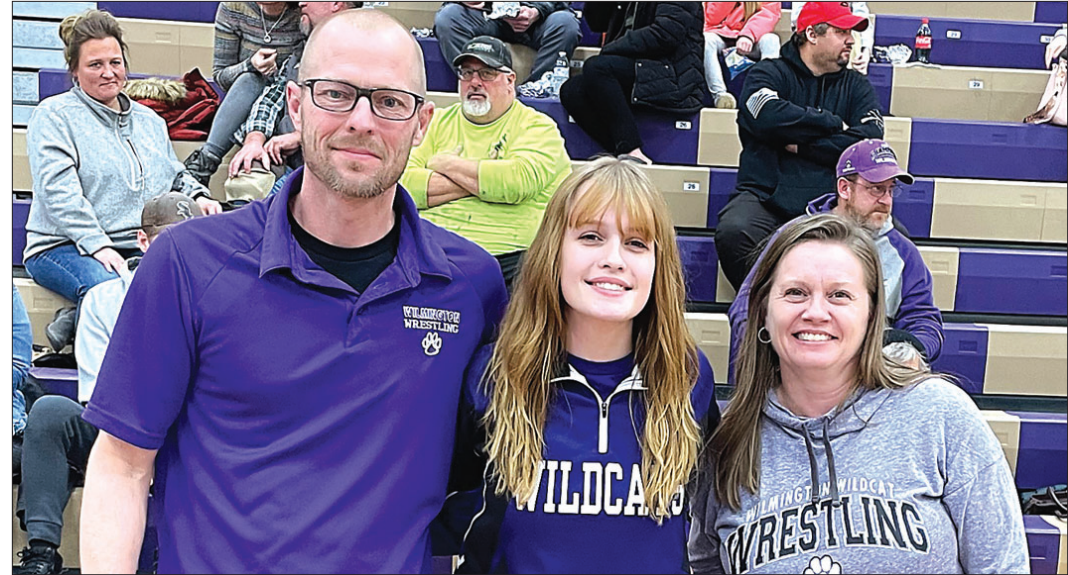
Please donate gently worn prom dresses purchases after 2018, purses, jewelry, shoes or any prom attire.

WILDCAT SPORTS

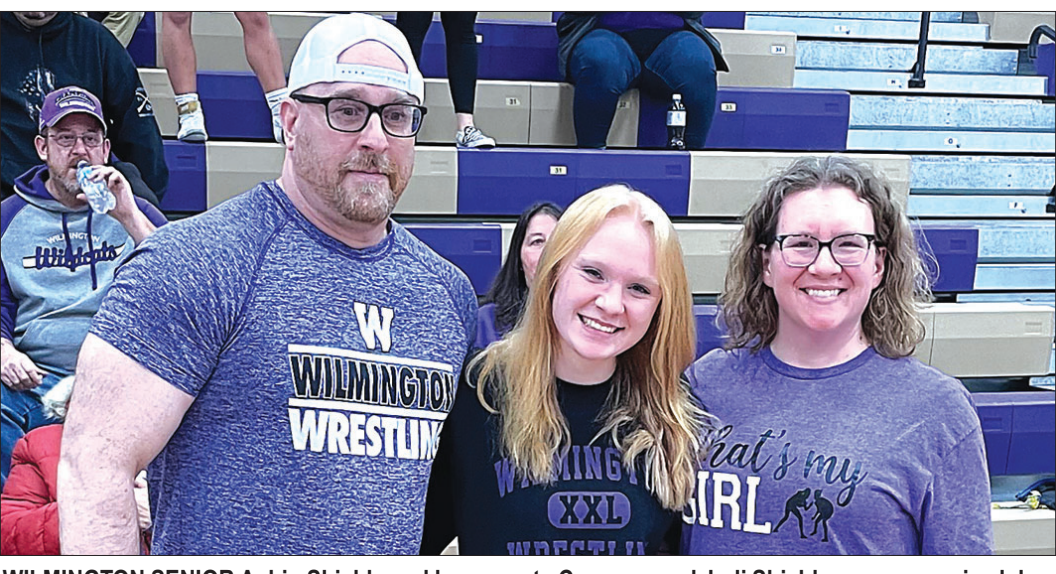
Wildcats recognized on Senior Night



WILMINGTON SENIOR Joel Greenidge is escorted by his grandmother, Michelle Flowers, and aunts Martina and Danielle Flowers. Joel participated in football, wrestling and track during his time at WHS. After graduation, Joel is undecided as to where he will go, but plans to attend college.



WILMINGTON SENIOR Casey Van Duyne is escorted by her parents, Ed and Christina Van Duyne. Casey wrestled as well as was a member of the Cheer team and Student Council. She is undecided at this time on a college but is interested in a job with recreation, parks and tourism.



WILMINGTON SENIOR Aubin Shields and her parents Cameron and Jodi Shields were recognized during the WHS wrestling senior night. Aubin has participated in wrestling, track team, Student Council, Spanish Club and is a student class representative. After graduation, she plans to attend Western Michigan University to study occupational therapy.



WILMINGTON SENIOR Hunter Hayes is escorted by his mother and stepdad Kim and Doug Carter during the recent WHS wrestling senior night. Hunter played football and wrestled all 4 years of high school. After graduation he plans to attend college to play football and major in exercise science.

Lady Wildcats win a pair during busy week

The Wilmington Wildcats volleyball teams had three matches last week with the 8th grade team winning 2 out of 3 to put their record at 6-1 overall. They beat Gardner South Wilmington 22-25, 25-11, 25-20 and Elwood 25-19, 25-10.

Their only loss came from Minooka, 18-25, 7-25.

Overall, the team had 34 aces. Sami Lairomatis had 9 of those with Addison Van Duyne with 7 and both Addison Billingsley and Keeley Walsh with 5 each to go along with their amazing defense. Taryn Talley led offensively with 10 kills.

Van Duyne added another 8 and Autumn Lancaster close behind her with 7. Gabby Kluk had powerful serves and great defense throughout all 3 games. Taylor Stickel also

got her first solo block for the season.

The 7th grade also took two out of the three matches for the week losing to Minooka as well 17-25, 8-25. Against GSW their scores were 25-16, 25-22 and against Elwood 25-10, 25-13. Caroline Smith and Sophia Albright led the team with 7 aces each with Taryn Gilbert right behind them with 6. Madisyn Knight had 6 kills to go along with her 3 aces. Amara Bown had 2 aces and 2 kills as well.

The 6th grade A and B team both fell to Minooka. The A team lost 17-25, 17-25. Kelsi Roeder and Violet Turcany both had 2 aces. The B team lost 23-25, 21-25. Adelle Freeman and Aubri Christiansen both had 3 aces each and Tracy Jones and Izzy Edgewater both added another 2 each.



LIFTING HIS OPPONENT from Streator during a recent quad meet in Coal City is Wilmington's Andrew Dedo who won at 195 pounds.



LIFTING HER OPPONENT during a girls open dual meet at Clifton Central is Wilmington's Ava Cupples. She and teammate Skyler Ortiz participated in the event. Cupples wrestled three times, twice against Minooka opponents and once against a Tolono Unity opponent. She battled with the two girls from Minooka, back and forth scores in the first match where she ended up getting pinned. She then beat the girl from Tolono Unity with a pin in 1:09. Her last match was against a state qualifier last year, and lost 7-1. She wrestled really well! Skyler Ortiz wrestled two times and lost both by pin but wrestled really well in her first match and battled. Then on Wednesday, Cupples traveled to Kaneland where she pinned her opponent to capture third place in a girls tournament. "It's exciting to see the girls get to compete against other girls and see how it goes for them," commented WHS coach Nick Dziuban.

WANT TO SEE YOUR TEAM REPORT HERE?
SEND STATS TO
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In Loving Memory of
Charlene Menz



January 31, 2020

If tears could build a stairway,
and memories a lane,
I'd walk right to Heaven
and bring you home again.
Sadly & Lonely. Missed for 3 long years by
Husband, Ed
Son, Lanny, and Grandchildren



THAT'S A TAKEDOWN—Wilmington freshman Logan VanDuyne scores points while taking down his 170-pound opponent. He placed fourth during the conference tournament.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

We just want to thank Brieser Construction and all those people who took part on the 23rd of October in the Memorial Tribute/Farewell Parade through town on the passing of Gary. What a great tribute for a great man. Too bad he was not able to witness it. Beautiful flowers were placed in the middle of the cul-de-sac and as the vehicles passed by, they threw out a carnation. It was quite an impressive site. Thanks also for all the people who gathered along the parade route and the neighbors and friends who gathered at our cul-de-sac. We could not have asked for anything any better. Also, thanks to all the people who have sent cards, phone calls or helped out in any way. We also cannot forget the help provided by the Reeves, Baskerville Funeral Home. We are so lucky to have such kind, caring and compassionate people like that in our community.

Thanks again,
The Gary Brieser Family

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WITH YOUR STORY IDEAS

'Cats hit the road to beat Clifton Central



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

QUICK MOVE - Wilmington's Ryan Nelson cuts for the basket during a recent home game. The Wildcats will host Reed-Custer on Friday.

The Wilmington boys basketball team enjoyed a non-conference win on Friday, beating Clifton Central, 54-47.

"We were in control the whole game and had a lead by as many as 18 points which was a nice way to win," coach Doug Krop said.

The Wildcats finished with four players with double figures. Reid Juster scored 13 points, pulled down 13 rebounds and dished out 7 assists to pace the 'Cats. Joey Cortese muscled up 13 points while getting 6 rebounds. Cade McCubbin finished with 11 points, 5 assists and 4 rebounds.

Senior Ryder Meents tallied 12 points while handing out two assists. Kyle Farrell

grabbed seven rebounds while scoring two points. Ryan Nelson contributed three points and three rebounds.

Bulldogs bite

The Streator Bulldogs came to town last Tuesday and were as stubborn as expected.

"We were right there for three quarters," coach Krop noted. "We were down by three points entering the 4th quarter but got outscored 21-11 in the 4th to lose 64-50."

Reid Juster 9 points 3 reb 3 ast

Joey Cortese 13 pts 7 reb

Ryder Meents 8 pts 3 reb

Kyle Farrell pts

Cade McCubbin 4 pts 3 reb

Ryan Nelson 5 pts 5 reb.



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

TOP OF THE KEY—Wilmington sophomore Lucas Rink runs the offense during fourth quarter action for the varsity Wildcats.



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

GOING IN for a basket for the varsity Wildcats last week is senior Ryder Meents who scored eight points during a 64-50 loss.



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

MUSCLING UP a shot for the varsity Wildcats while being pressured by a Streator defender is junior Joey Cortese.



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

WILDCAT COACH Doug Krop reacts after changing up the defense against Streator during last week's home loss.



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

GOING TO THE BASKET for the varsity Wildcats last week while hosting Streator is sophomore center Brycen Feil.

WILDCAT Music Ball

WILMINGTON MUSIC BOOSTERS INVITES YOU TO OUR FIRST EVER WILDCAT MUSIC BALL!

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5 FREE RAFFLE TICKETS WHEN YOU PRE-REGISTER!

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Child's Last Name: _____
Child's First Name: _____
of children attending: _____ # of adults attending: _____

Total \$ amount included

Return this completed form along with the total ticket price to your child's school by Monday, February 6th. Checks can be made out to Wilmington Music Boosters. Thanks!
*Raffle tickets will be given at event check-in. Must be present to win.

Lady Cat's fall to Reed-Custer



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

LADY 'CAT HUSTLE—Lexi Liaramatis charges up the court for the Wilmington varsity. The Lady 'Cats hosted Reed-Custer Monday but lost 43-30.